AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as indicated hereafter. It is believed that the following amendments and additions add no new matter to the present application.

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph starting on p. 5, paragraph No. 0012 as follows:

In another embodiment of the invention, the ferrule bore has a circular precision surface for receiving the fiber, with lobes on each side, and an enlarged portion of the bore for receiving a single V-shaped SMA (preferably (NTA) strip. The fiber is inserted in the bore and ~~preferable~~ preferably projects slightly above the precision surface. Where the V-shaped strip is heated, it flattens out, as explained in the foregoing and bears against the fiber, pressing it against the precision surface and clamping and holding it firmly therewithin. Thus the fiber is centrally contained within the bore.

Please amend the paragraph starting on p. 8, paragraph 0034 as follows:

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view of a typical ferrule 24, which may e of any of a number of different materials, although, as pointed out hereinafter, in accordance with the invention, the ferrule 24 is preferably an injection-molded zirconia-ceramic or of highly silica-filled polymer. The ferrule 24 has an axial bore 36 extending therethrough that has a forward section 37 within which the fiber (not shown) is generally cemented, and a rear enlarged diameter section 38 and conical entry section 39 for facilitating insertion of the fiber into section 37. Ferrule 24 is affixed to flange 23 by insertion and cementing in bore 34 thereof. The ferrule shown in Fig. 2 is commonly called a nozzle ferrule because enlarged diameter section 38 is extended for some length into the ferrule 24. However, ferrules are also made without the enlarged diameter where the axial bore is extended nearly the length of the ferrule with the conical section 39 relocated [[to]] at the fiber entry end of the ferrule.

Please amend the paragraph starting on p. 8, paragraph 0036 as follows:

However, when NT shape memory alloys have excessive stress loads applied beyond ~~its~~ their elastic region and at a temperature less than the transformation (Af) temperature, it undergoes a plastic-like deformation. When heated to higher than the transformation, the deformation disappears and the original shape is restored. These super-elastic NT alloys can accept an excessive stress load up to ten times the alloy's elastic stress region and at a temperature higher than the transformation temperature. When the excessive stress load is removed, the deformation disappears and the alloy restores its original shape.